

c. c. cessful in employing a Sett of Villains to recruit in Sussex and the disaffected Parts of this State, our Endeavours will not be wanting to put a Stop to it and bring the Guilty to Punishment.

Isaac Sterling promises to wait on you and you will perhaps be able to secure some of the Offenders who may possibly be passing through your Parts. We are Sir &<sup>ca</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup> Simpson Accomack  
Virginia

Original.

[Gates to Johnson.]

(Circular)

War Office February 10, 1778.

Sir

Enclosed you have a Copy of a Resolve of Congress, directing the Board to enquire into the causes of the deficiencies in the department of the purchasing Commissaries, the present state of which, is really alarming. In order to enable us to comply with the directions of Congress, it is necessary to get all the evidence the subject will admit of, as well for present satisfaction, as future Government. I am therefore, to solicit your immediate enquiry into the situation of the purchasing Department in your State, and that you will be pleas'd to give such Information, both as to men and measures, as you shall think the necessity of the case demands, and if any abuses have arisen, from the men, employed either principally or subordinately, Measures, may be taken for their removal; and if any want of Regulation on public, or private obstructions, has been the occasion of the Languor in the Department, as far as has fallen under your Notice, the proper representation may be made to Congress, who are ready to remedy, when properly informed, of the evil. The Board, would also be happy to receive your opinion, as to what supplies may at this time or in the course of the next Campaign, be drawn from your State, specifying, the species and probable quantitys of the respective articles. The Board have taken the Liberty to address this Letter to you, as they have done to the Governments of the other States, not with a view to any particular Person or Measure, nor with a desire to draw from any State more Provisions or supplies than it is prudent for them to part with, but as they have been placed in a great Department, and do not yet know where the Enemys Operations the next Campaign may point, it is necessary for the Board to know what Abuses prevail, what Regulations should be made in the Provision business, and what resources each State can furnish in case of any emergency or movement of the Enemy; keeping always in view the supply of the Army,